

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 L-03 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05 SS-15 OES-07 MMO-01
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NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP
PM:CMDR. BURGESS
L/NEA:DSMALL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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INFO SECDEF WASHDC
HQ USAF WASHDC
HQ ADCOM PETERSON AFB CO
HQ AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD
ESD HQ HANSCOM AFB

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MO

SUBJECT: GEODSS MOROCCO

1. THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST
FOR A STATEMENT REGARDING GEODSS PROJECT IN MOROCCO. IT
IS INTENDED FOR YOUR USE WITH KING HASSAN IN ORDER TO CON-
FIRM GOM APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT.

A. BEGIN TEXT: THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MAINTAINS
SURVEILLANCE OF ALL MAN-MADE OBJECTS ORBITING THE EARTH,
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INCLUDING SATELLITES AND THE BOOSTER TANKS AND ROCKET
MOTORS USED TO PLACE THE SATELLITES IN EARTH ORBIT.

B. RADAR SITES NOW BEING USED TO SEARCH FOR AND TRACK
SOME OF THE ORBITING OBJECTS ARE NOT GENERALLY ABLE TO MAIN-
TAIN SURVEILLANCE OF OBJECTS ORBITING AT DISTANCES GREATER
THAN 3,000 NAUTICAL MILES. AN ELECTRO-OPTICAL SYSTEM,

KNOWN AS THE GROUND-BASED ELECTRO-OPTICAL DEEP SPACE SURVEILLANCE OR GEODSS, WILL HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO SEARCH FOR AND TRACK ALL SUN LIGHTED OBJECTS AGAINST A NIGHT SKY BACKGROUND. EACH SITE OF THIS SYSTEM WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH FOUR TELESCOPES OF ABOUT ONE METER IN DIAMETER, A LOW LIGHT LEVEL TELEVISION CAMERA FOR EACH TELESCOPE, AND THE CONTROLS AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO OBTAIN ACCURATE POSITION MEASUREMENTS ON EACH OBJECT AND TRANSMIT THE DATA TO A CENTRAL LOCATION FOR ANALYSIS. FIVE SITES ARE TO BE LOCATED AROUND THE EARTH TO PROVIDE COMPLETE COVERAGE OF THE HIGH-ALTITUDE EQUATORIAL REGION.

C. MOROCCO IS A PRIME LOCATION FOR BOTH GEOGRAPHICAL AND METEOROLOGICAL REASONS. NIGHTTIME WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE OPTIMUM AROUND THE MARRAKECH/BEN GUERIR REGION AND THE MOROCCAN LOCATION ALLOWS THE DESIRED CONTINUOUS COVERAGE IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER GEODSS SITES. A SITE SURVEY CONCLUDED THAT BEN GUERIR AIR BASE WOULD BE A DESIRABLE OPERATIONAL LOCATION FOR THE GEODSS SITE. AN ALTERNATE SITE WOULD BE THE MEKNES AIR BASE.

D. WHICHEVER SITE IS APPROVED, CONSTRUCTION OF A ONE-STORY OPERATIONS BUILDING AND FOUR TWO-STORY TELESCOPE TOWERS WOULD BEGIN EARLY IN 1980 AND OPERATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN BY EARLY 1982. AN ADDITIONAL BUILDING MIGHT BE REQUIRED AT SOME FUTURE DATE TO PROVIDE HOUSING

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FOR THE 35 PERSONNEL WHO WOULD BE OPERATING THE SITE. THIS BUILDING WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF 1982 OR LATER. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD EXPECT THE LAND AT THE SITE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE GOM WITHOUT CHARGE, THE USG WILL BEAR ALL COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING, EQUIPPING, OPERATING AND MAINTAINING THE SITE, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. THE PLANNED DURATION OF THE SITE OPERATION WILL BE AT LEAST TEN YEARS. THE GEODSS SITE OPERATION WILL BE SUPERVISED BY FIVE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE PERSONNEL (TWO OFFICERS AND THREE ENLISTED), WITH A U.S. CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR (WITH AN ESTIMATED 30 CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES) OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT. USAF PERSONNEL SHOULD BE ACCORDED THE STATUS, RIGHTS, AND PRIVILEGES EQUIVALENT TO THOSE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE U.S. EMBASSY, AS SET FORTH IN THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. EQUIPMENT AND OTHER REMOVABLE PROPERTY BROUGHT INTO MOROCCO BY THE USAF OR ITS CONTRACTORS FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SITE WOULD REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF THE USAF OR ITS CONTRACTORS AND WOULD BE ACCORDED DUTY FREE ENTRY AND EXIT.

E. THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO THE COUNTRY OF MOROCCO IF

THE GEODSS SITE IS LOCATED AT BEN GUERIR OR MEKNES AIR
BASE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) ASTRONOMICAL AND SATELLITE OBSERVATION DATA COULD BE
MADE AVAILABLE TO MOROCCAN SCIENTISTS OR ASTRONOMERS.
DETAILS WOULD BE ARRANGED AFTER THE SITE BECOMES OPERA-
TIONAL.

(2) THE SATELLITE CURRENTLY BEING USED TO SUPPORT COM-
MUNICATIONS IN MOROCCO CAN BE MONITORED BY THE GEODSS
SITE TO DETERMINE EXACT LOCATION AND TO PROVIDE AN
ASSESSMENT OF DYNAMIC MOTION IF A SATELLITE STABILIZATION
PROBLEM SHOULD DEVELOP.

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(3) AIR FORCE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GEODSS SITE MAY IN-
CLUDE EMPLOYMENT OF LOCAL MOROCCAN CONTRACTORS.

(4) OPERATION OF THE SITE MAY REQUIRE PURCHASE OF
ELECTRICITY AND FUEL FROM THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

(5) A LOCAL CONTRACTOR MAY BE EMPLOYED FOR ROUTINE
MAINTENANCE OF THE BUILDINGS AT THE SITE.

(6) AMERICAN PERSONNEL OPERATING THE SITE WOULD EXPEND
U.S. DOLLARS ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

(7) WHEN OPERATION OF THE SITE IS TERMINATED, THE
BUILDINGS AND OTHER PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE TURNED
OVER TO THE GOM TO USE AS DESIRED. END TEXT.

2. YOU WILL NOTE THAT THIS STATEMENT IS NOT CAST IN
USUAL INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MOU FORMAT. OUR HOPE IS THAT
THIS INFORMAL PAPER WILL SERVE AS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN
HASSAN'S KNOWN PREFERENCE FOR ORAL AGREEMENTS AND OUR
PREFERENCE FOR AN AGREEMENT OF RECORD. IT DOES CONTAIN
ALL SUBSTANTIVE COMMITMENTS WE WOULD REQUIRE IN A FORMAL
MOU.

3. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, PREFER SIGNATURE BY HASSAN OR
BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LARAKI, IN WHICH
CASE THE DOCUMENT COULD BE ENTITLED A MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING. IF THIS PROVES TO BE POSSIBLE, YOU WILL
BE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE USG. IF NOT,
YOU WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO CONCLUDE AN ORAL AGREEMENT WITH
THE KING THAT SHOULD, HOWEVER, INCLUDE REFERENCE TO THE
ABOVE DOCUMENT AS A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE STATEMENT OF THE
AGREEMENT BEING ENTERED INTO BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS. IN
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THIS CASE, YOU SHOULD LEAVE WITH THE KING ONE COPY OF THE DOCUMENT, AND INFORM HIM THAT ANOTHER COPY WOULD BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON.

4. AS CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY WILL BE REQUIRED FOR CONCLUSION OF GEODSS AGREEMENT, EVEN IF DOCUMENT WILL BE UNSIGNED, YOU SHOULD NOT DISCUSS CONTENTS THIS MESSAGE WITH GOM UNTIL NOTIFIED CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY GRANTED, WHICH EXPECTED SHORTLY. IN MEANWHILE, ANY COMMENT YOU MAY HAVE ON SUBSTANCE THIS MESSAGE WOULD BE WELCOME. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE230675
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JREINERTSON:MAR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770349-1095
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770921/aaaaarra.tel
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e8d3ae3d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1132897
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GEODSS MOROCCO
TAGS: MASS, MO
To: RABAT
Type: TE
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